TL 4998

Social Development & World Peace

National Conference of Catholic Bishops / United States Catholic Conference

June 5, 1998

Most Reverend Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo, s.d.b.
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Dili
Uskupan Lecidere [Bidau]
K.P. 10250, Dili 88010
East Timor

Dear Bishop Belo,

As we Bishops of the United States are about to meet in our Spring Assembly, I am reminded of your presence among us at the Kansas City Assembly last year. It was a great pleasure to have you with us at that time, and I was particularly pleased that you were able to be my guest in Newark.

At this historic juncture, our Conference is eager to lend whatever support we can to make real the promise of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize. We believe that the United States government should impress upon the new Indonesian administration the need for a prompt resolution of the East Timor issue, based upon the freely expressed wishes of the people and in accord with the resolutions of the United Nations.

Attached is a copy of a letter I have just sent to Secretary Albright expressing those views. I extend warm personal greetings to you and to Bishop Do Nascimento, assuring you of the continued solidarity of our Conference with the Church in East Timor.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Theodore E. McCarrick
Archbishop of Newark
Chairman, USCC Committee on International Policy

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